

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 20, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 16

Introduced by Assembly Member Hagman
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Allen, Ian Calderon, and Quirk-Silva)

February 12, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 16—Relative to the Gerald “Blackie” Sawyer Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 16, as amended, Hagman. Gerald “Blackie” Sawyer Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 39 (Beach Blvd.) in the City of ~~La Mirada~~ *Buena Park* from Hillsborough Drive to Stage Road as the Gerald “Blackie” Sawyer Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Detective Gerald “Blackie” Wayne Sawyer was
- 2 born on November 19, 1941, in the City of Los Angeles, California,
- 3 the eldest of two children, to Warren and Alice Sawyer; and
- 4 WHEREAS, In 1958, Detective Sawyer graduated from Excelsior
- 5 High School in the City of Norwalk, California, where he was a
- 6 very active student and played football; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1961, *Detective* Sawyer married Rosella
2 McFarland and continued living in the City of Norwalk, California;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 1963 Detective Sawyer began attending the Los
5 Angeles Police Academy, where he attained his ultimate desire by
6 becoming a proud member of the Los Angeles Police Department
7 where he served for 10 years; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1971, Detective Sawyer relocated to the City of
9 La Mirada, where he resided with his wife Rosella, son Brian, and
10 newborn daughter Christy; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1972, Detective Sawyer began coaching the La
12 Mirada Monarchs, a Pop Warner youth football team, leading them
13 to an undefeated championship season; and

14 WHEREAS, On Tuesday, November 6, 1973, Detective Gerald
15 Sawyer was shot and killed while working in a joint undercover
16 investigation with the United States Drug Enforcement
17 Administration. Detective Sawyer was shot by a cocaine trafficker
18 during an attempted robbery of a \$144,000 flashroll; and

19 WHEREAS, The trafficker and an accomplice were arrested at
20 the scene by other narcotics detectives and charged with first degree
21 murder; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1974, Detective Sawyer was awarded the Medal
23 of Valor, the highest award given an officer, for his ultimate
24 sacrifice; and

25 WHEREAS, In the years following Detective Sawyer's tragic
26 death, countless police officers and detectives nationwide have
27 been made safer because of the training film outlining his death;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Detective Sawyer was survived by his parents
30 Warren Sawyer and Alice Sawyer, his wife, Rosella Sawyer, his
31 children, Brian Sawyer and Christy Sawyer, and his brother
32 Thomas Sawyer; and

33 WHEREAS, In honor of Detective Sawyer's service and
34 sacrifice, it would be a fitting tribute to designate a portion of State
35 Highway Route 39 as the Detective Gerald "Blackie" Sawyer
36 Memorial Highway; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
38 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
39 portion of State Highway Route 39 (Beach Blvd.) from

1 Hillsborough Drive to Stage Road as the Detective Gerald
2 “Blackie” Sawyer Memorial Highway; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
4 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
5 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
6 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
7 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
8 further
9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
10 of this resolution to the ~~Department~~ *Director* of Transportation
11 and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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